

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 TOKYO 04797 120450Z

12

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 /050 W

----- 107874

O R 120400Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9361

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TOKYO 4797

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR XC JA

SUBJ: REACTION TO PRESIDENT FORD'S "STATE OF WORLD"

SUMMARY: WHILE REPORTING FULLY PRES FORD'S "STATE OF WORLD" MESSAGE, JAPANESE MEDIA FOCUSSED ON INDOCHINESE ASPECTS OF SPEECH. EDITORIALS ASSERTED THAT US POLICIES IN INDOCHINA ARE AT DEAD END. SOME EDITORIALS SAW SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR JAPAN'S AND OTHER ALLIES' SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS WITH US. FONOFF REPORTEDLY NERVOUS ABOUT GAP IN US AND JAPANESE COMMUNICATION ABOUT ASIAN POLICY. END SUMMARY.

1. PRES FORD'S APRIL 10 SPEECH WAS TOP NEWS IN JAPAN, WITH FULL COVERAGE OF SUBSTANCE IN ALL MEDIA AND EDITORIALS IN ALL PAPERS DEVOTED TO THE SPEECH. REMARKS ON JAPAN WERE PROMINENTLY REPORTED. EDITORIALS EMPHASIZED AGONIES OF US DIPLOMACY AND EFFORTS BY US TO RECTIFY IMBALANCE OUR RENDEZVOUS IN SE ASIA REPRESENTED. PAPERS FORECAST THAT PROCESS OF REBUILDING VIABLE DIPLOMACY, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 TOKYO 04797 120450Z

ESPECIALLY IN ASIA, WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR US (TOKYO SHIMBUN).

PRESS WAS SKEPTICAL OF CONGRESS" WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE ANY MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO SVN AND SEVERAL PAPERS QUESTIONED WHETHER THE PRESIDENT WAS "BLUFFING". ASAHI CONCLUDED THAT US POLICIES IN INDOCHINA HAD REACHED THE "DEAD END". SIMILARLY, YOMIURI CHARGED THAT THE US ACTED "RECKLESSLY" IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS BECAUSE OF EXCESSIVE IDEOLOGICAL ZEAL. PARLOUS CONDITION OF INDOCHINA THE SAD RESULT, YOMIURI ASSERTED, AND "THERE WAS NO SIGN OF RECONSIDERATION IN PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS". EVEN PRO US JAPAN TIMES SAID US WAS MAKING ITS LAST STAND IN INDOCHINA, PRESIDENT'S PROPOSALS BEING "LEAST US COULD DO BEFORE LEAVING SVN TO ITS OWN FATE". SEVERAL PAPERS EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN THAT ATTEMPT BY US TO RESCUE SOUTH VIETNAMESE CITIZENS MIGHT RESULT IN US RE-ENTRY INTO THE CONFLICT.

2. MORE FAVORABLY, SANKEI WELCOMED US DEFENSE PLEDGES TO JAPAN AND CALLED FOR STRENGTHENING US-JAPAN LINKS. BUT, IN COMMENTING ON IMPLICATIONS FOR AMERICA'S OTHER ALLIES, TONE IN OTHER PAPERS WAS DECIDEDLY APPREHENSIVE. JAPAN TIMES WROTE, "NON-COMMUNIST NATIONS IN ITS PART OF THE WORLD AND AMERICA'S MORE SECURE ALLIES IN NATO, WILL HAVE TO TAKE A HARD LOOK INTO THEIR OWN POLICIES AND WHAT MAY REASONABLY BE EXPECTED OF AMERICA'S STABILIZING ROLE IN THE WORLD." YOMIURI WARNED, "ALLIES OF THE US CAN NO LONGER RELAX IN SECURE DEPENDENCE ON THE LEADERSHIP OF THE US." CITING AN UNSPECIFIED RECENT SURVEY, YOMIURI SAID ONLY ONE IN THREE AMERICANS INDICATED APPROVAL FOR THE US TO JOIN BATTLE IF A EUROPEAN ALLY WERE ATTACKED AND SPECULATED THAT THE FIGURE WOULD BE EVEN SMALLER IF THE ALLY WERE ASIAN. YOMIURI CONCLUDED THAT IN THE FUTURE THE US WOULD THINK MORE "PURELY" OF ITS OWN INTERESTS IN CONDUCTING FOREIGN POLICY.

3. ASAHI CARRIED A PURPORTED FONOFF ASSESSMENT WHICH EXPRESSED "NERVOUSNESS" ABOUT JAPAN'S "SEPARATION" FROM US AND WORRIED THAT JAPAN AND US WERE OUT OF STEP AT VERY MOMENT THAT US FORMULATES A NEW ASIAN POLICY. ACCORDING TO THIS ANALYSIS, GOJ SHOULD DO MORE TO BRIDGE THE APPARENT GAP. IN BRIEF INITIAL CONTACT WITH FONOFF OFFICIALS, WE GET MIXED READING. SOME EXPRESS WELCOME FOR PRESIDENT FORD'S REASSURANCES, BUT ONE MID-LEVEL OFFICIAL SAW SPEECH AS "AIRPORT TAX", OR THE FINAL PRICE FOR ABANDONING SVN. A SINGAPORE DIPLOMAT COMMENTED THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 TOKYO 04797 120450Z

THE US HAD ITS PRIORITIES UPSIDE DOWN: WE SHOULD HAVE SOUGHT FUNDS TO HELP SIHANOUK REBUILD KHMER RATHER THAN TRY TO STEM INEVITABLE COMMUNIST TIDE IN ASIA. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT HE HOPED AFFAIR COULD BE ENDED QUICKLY WITHOUT RECRIMINATIONS IN THE US BECAUSE "US CONSTRUCTIVE PRESENCE IN SE ASIA WAS ESSENTIAL".

4. PRESS REPORTED PREDICTABLE OPPOSITION PARTY REACTION, DEMANDING US STAY OUT OF INDOCHINA AND ALLOW PEOPLES THERE TO

DETERMINE OWN FATES. OPPOSITIONISTS ALSO DEPLORED US-JAPAN
MUTUAL SECURITY TREATY INVOLVED JAPAN IN US SE ASIA POLICIES.

5. COMMENT: WE ARE SOMEWHAT SURPRISED BY NEGATIVE REACTION BUT
EXPECT FONOFF BACKGROUNDEERS IN NEXT FEW DAYS WILL PROVIDE
GREATER BALANCE TO PRESS PERSPECTIVE. OUTCOME OF FONMIN
MIYAZAWA'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON WILL ALSO HEAVILY INFLUENCE
ATTITUDES HERE. THERE IS NO DOUBT, THOUGH, THAT DEVELOPMENTS
IN INDOCHINA ARE HAVING A PROFOUND AFFECT ON MEDIA AND ARE
SUBJECT OF SERIOUS CONCERN GENERALLY IN JAPAN.
SHOESMITH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, SPEECHES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TOKYO04797
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750127-1025
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750455/aaaabyyc.tel
Line Count: 126
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUL 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <17 NOV 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REACTION TO PRESIDENT FORD'S "STATE OF WORLD" SUMMARY: WHILE REPORTING FULLY PRES FORD'S "STATE OF WORLD"
TAGS: PFOR, XC, JA, US, (FORD, GERALD R)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006